



CENAO-REG  
08-RP-15

## REGIONAL PERMIT

Effective date: August 14, 2008

Expiration Date: August 14, 2013

### I. AUTHORITIES:

**08-RP-15 ("Regional Permit 15")** authorizes the maintenance dredging of existing ditches in navigable waters and waters of the United States for either mosquito control purposes or to maintain drainage from upland areas, subject to standards, limitations and conditions further set out herein. Authorized activities under this Regional Permit ("RP" or "GP") may involve the discharge of dredged or fill material associated with the maintenance dredging of existing ditches which, if such activity does not cause the loss of more than one-half (0.5) acre wetlands and waters (cumulative) and/or 1500 linear feet of streams.

This authorization will allow the public to maintain dimensions of existing mosquito control ditches and of existing ditches that maintain drainage of upland areas. Final dimensions of the maintained ditch shall not exceed the average dimensions of the original ditch. This RP does not authorize any work other than that which complies with the general and special conditions below. This RP does not authorize construction of new ditches or the channelization, rechannelization, or realignment of streams or other waterways.

The people of the Commonwealth of Virginia are hereby authorized by the Secretary of the Army and the Chief of Engineers pursuant to Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (33 U.S.C. 403) and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344) to maintenance dredge existing ditches in waters of the United States for either mosquito control purposes or to maintain drainage from upland areas, as long as such maintenance dredging does not result in the discharge of dredged or fill material that causes the loss of more than one-half (0.5) acre of wetlands or waters or the loss of more than 1500 linear feet of streams, and so long as the original dimensions of ditches are maintained, and subject to the limits and standards contained herein and in the special and general permit conditions outlined below.

Activities which involve the discharge of dredged or fill material associated with maintenance dredging of existing ditches as described above causing the loss of not more than one half (0.5) acre of wetlands or waters or the loss of not more than 1500 linear feet of streams are authorized.

Activities authorized under this regional permit do not require further authorization under the provisions contained in 33 CFR 325, Regulatory Programs of the Corps of Engineers, unless the District Engineer determines, on a case by case basis, that additional review is in the public interest.

All work undertaken outside the following conditions, standards, and limitations must receive separate Department of the Army authorization.

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## II. STATE AND LOCAL APPROVALS:

1. Prospective permittees may be required to obtain additional state and/or local approvals prior to commencement of work in waters of the United States from the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), the Virginia Marine Resources Commission (VMRC) and/or the local wetlands board. You may contact the DEQ at (757) 518-2000, the VMRC at (757) 247-2200, and/or your local government office for further information concerning their permit requirements.
2. A Virginia Department of Environmental Quality ("DEQ") authorization may be required unless a §401 Water Quality Certification has been provided for this RP, by the State Water Control Board, which certification serves as a determination that activities that qualify for this RP meet the Virginia Water Protection Permit Regulation. Any conditions which are made part of an applicable DEQ 401 certificate will automatically become conditions of this RP.
3. When proposed work is associated with mosquito control, the permittee shall obtain a written statement from the Virginia State Health Department which states that the continued maintenance of the mosquito ditch is necessary to prevent the spread of mosquito borne disease. If this statement cannot be obtained, the permittee should contact the DEQ, Water Division, at (757) 518-2000 regarding the need for a Virginia Water Protection Permit.
4. Authorizations under this RP also require that permittees ensure that their projects are designed and constructed in a manner consistent with all state and local requirements pursuant to the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act ("the Act") (Virginia Code 10.1-2100 *et seq.*) and the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Area Designation and Management Regulations (9 VAC 10-20-10 *et seq.*). Authorizations under this regional permit do not obviate state or local government authority or responsibilities pursuant to the Act or to any State and local law or regulation.

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## III. PROCEDURES:

1. Discharges that otherwise qualify for this RP, and cause a loss of no more than one-tenth (0.10) acre of wetlands and/or waters and no more than 300 linear feet of streams or other waters (including tidal ditches and canals) do not require further authorization from the Norfolk District Corps of Engineers. Be sure to obtain all other state and local permits prior to commencing the activity, as described in Part II above.
2. Discharges causing a loss of one-tenth (0.10) to one-half (0.5) acre of wetlands and/or waters and 300 to 1500 linear feet of streams or other waters require written notification from the Corps prior to commencing the activity.

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The permittee shall notify the District Commander in writing of his/her intent to maintenance dredge specific ditches prior to the commencement of the activity. The notification will include the following (a joint permit application is not required, but may be used for this purpose):

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- a. Name and address of permittee.
- b. A map, preferably USGS topographic map, indicating the exact location of the ditch(es) to be maintained and the site for management of the excavated/dredged material.

- c. A brief narrative describing the type of excavating/dredging equipment (e.g. dragline, backhoe, hand tools, etc.) to be used, the volume of material to be excavated, where the material is to be placed, and how the material is to be stabilized. Also, a plan view and cross section drawing that shows the original design dimensions of the ditch(es) (using Mean Sea Level datum in tidal areas or Ordinary High Water in non-tidal areas) and the proposed maintenance specifications.
  - d. The area calculation (in acres and/or linear feet) of water (including wetlands) to be impacted by the project and a classification of the waters using the US Fish and Wildlife Service's Cowardin System for classification of wetland and deep water systems.
  - e. A description of any adjoining and/or abutting wetlands and/or waters to the project area.
  - f. A proposal to compensate for an unavoidable and permanent losses of wetlands that may be drained or filled as a result of the planned activity.
3. Any discharges causing a loss which exceeds one-half (0.5) acre of wetlands and/or waters and 1500 linear feet of streams do not qualify for this RP and will require separate Department of the Army authorization.

#### IV. SPECIAL CONDITIONS:

1. Maintenance excavation/dredging of drainage ditches authorized by this permit is limited to the removal of accreted or accumulated material at an elevation above mean low water (tidal waters), or ordinary low water (non-tidal waters). Any excavation/dredging below the plane of mean low water or ordinary low water does not qualify for this RP and must receive separate Department of the Army authorization.
2. Maintenance excavation/dredging of mosquito control ditches authorized by this permit is limited to the removal of accreted material at an elevation above mean sea level or ordinary high water. Any excavation/dredging below the plane of mean sea level or ordinary low water does not qualify for this RP and must receive separate Department of the Army authorization.
3. The excavated/dredged material will be placed on existing berms to the extent practicable. However, if the amount of dredged material exceeds the storage capacity of existing berms, then the material will be located in a specified upland management area (this RP does not authorize placement of the material in waters and/or wetlands). In conjunction with maintenance dredging work, existing berm(s) adjacent to the ditches shall be breached at 50 foot intervals to an elevation equal to the adjacent wetlands. The breach must have a five-foot bottom width. Berms that are less than 50 linear feet require one breach. If site conditions render breaching impractical, then the District Commander may authorize an alternative plan. The District Commander must be notified and ditch maintenance dredging cannot be commenced until the permittee obtains written approval from the District Commander.
4. If the permittee fails to comply with the terms of this RP, the Secretary of the Army or his/her authorized representative may direct the permittee to restore the waterway to its former condition, with no expense to the United States. If the permittee fails to comply with the directive, the Secretary or his representative may restore the area to its former condition, by contract or otherwise, and may seek reimbursement of the cost thereof from the permittee.

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The permittee shall notify the District Engineer in writing of his/her intent to maintenance dredge specific ditches prior to the commencement of the activity. The notification will include the following (a joint permit application is not required, but may be used for this purpose): ¶

<#>Name and address of permittee.¶

<#>A map, preferably USGS topographic map, indicating the exact location of the ditch(es) to be maintained and the site for management of the excavated/dredged material. ¶

<#>A brief narrative describing the type of excavating/dredging equipment (e.g. dragline, backhoe, hand tools, etc.) to be used, the volume of material to be excavated, where the material is to be placed, and how the material is to be stabilized. Also, a plan view and cross section drawing that shows the original design dimensions of the ditch(es) (using Mean Sea Level datum in tidal areas or Ordinary High Water in non-tidal areas) and the proposed maintenance specifications.¶

**Comment [REG1]:** Maintenance dredging limits were changed from elevation above mean and ordinary HIGH water to mean and ordinary LOW water. Maintenance limited to HIGH water elevations do not appear productive for mosquito control and drainage purposes. A condition requiring compensatory mitigation for any permanent impacts to 1/10 to ¼ acre of wetlands is being required for any wetlands that may be drained or filled as a result of the planned maintenance activity.

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<#>When the work is associated with mosquito control, the permittee shall obtain a written statement from the Virginia State Health Department which states that the continued maintenance of the mosquito ditch is necessary to prevent the spread of mosquito borne disease. If this statement cannot be obtained, the permittee should contact the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, Water Division, at (757) 518-2000 regarding the need for a Virginia Water Protection Permit. ¶

5. No discharge of dredged or fill material may consist of unsuitable material (e.g.: trash, debris, car bodies, asphalt, etc.), and material discharged must be free from toxic pollutants in toxic amounts (see Section 307 of the Clean Water Act).
6. No discharge of dredged or fill material may occur in the proximity of a public water supply intake except where the discharge is for adjacent bank stabilization.
7. The temporary placement or double-handling of excavated or fill material channelward of mean high water or ordinary high water elevation is not authorized by this [RP](#).
8. To the maximum extent practicable, discharges must not permanently restrict or impede the passage of normal or expected high flows or cause the relocation of the water.
9. Discharges into breeding areas for migratory waterfowl must be avoided to the maximum extent practicable.
10. Any temporary fills must be removed in their entirety and the affected areas returned to their pre-existing elevation.
11. Any structure or fill authorized shall be properly maintained, including maintenance to ensure public safety.

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## V. GENERAL CONDITIONS:

The following conditions apply to all activities authorized under Regional General Permits (RGP).

1. **Geographic jurisdiction.** This regional permit will authorize work undertaken within the geographical limits of the Commonwealth of Virginia under the regulatory jurisdiction of the Norfolk District.
2. **Compliance Certification.** A Certificate of Compliance must be completed and a copy retained for your records. The original Certificate of Compliance shall be mailed to, U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, Regulatory Branch, 803 Front Street, Norfolk, Virginia 23510-1096 within 30 days of completion of the project.
3. **Other permits.** Authorization does not obviate the need to obtain other Federal, state, or local authorizations required by law or to comply with all Federal, state, or local laws.
4. **Minimal effects.** Projects authorized shall have no more than minimal individual or cumulative adverse environmental impacts, as determined by the Norfolk District.
5. **Discretionary authority.** The Norfolk District Corps of Engineers District Commander retains discretionary authority to require processing of an individual permit based on concerns for the aquatic environment or for any other factor of the public interest (33 C.F.R. § 320.4(a)). This authority is exercised on a case-by-case basis.
6. **Single and complete projects.** This RGP shall only be applied to single and complete projects. For purposes of this RGP, a single and complete project means the total project proposed or accomplished by one owner/developer or partnership or other association of owners/developers and which has independent utility. A project is considered to have independent utility if it would be constructed absent the construction of other projects in the project area. Portions of a multi-phase project that depend upon other phases of the project do not have independent utility. Phases of a project that would be constructed even if the other phases were not built can be considered as single and complete projects with independent utility.
7. **Multiple general permit authorizations.** This Regional Permit may be combined with any Corps general permits (including Nationwide (NWP) or Regional Permits (RGP) for a single and

complete project, as long as the acreage loss of waters of the United States authorized by the NWP/RGPs does not exceed the acreage limit of the NWP/RGP with the highest specified acreage limit.

8. **Permit on-site.** The permittee shall ensure that a copy of the RGP and the accompanying authorization letter are at the work site at all times. These copies must be made available to any regulatory representative upon request. Although the permittee may assign various aspects of the work to different contractors or sub-contractors, all contractors and sub-contractors shall be expected to comply with all conditions of any general permit authorization.

#### **General Conditions Related to National Concerns:**

9. **Historic properties.** (a) In cases where it is determined that the activity may affect properties listed, or eligible for listing on, the National Register of Historic Places, the activity is not authorized until the requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) have been satisfied. (b) Federal permittees should follow their own procedures for complying with the requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. Federal permittees must provide the Norfolk District with the appropriate documentation to demonstrate compliance with those requirements. (c) Non-federal permittees must submit a statement regarding the authorized activity's potential to cause effects to any historic properties listed, or determined to be eligible for listing on, the National Register of Historic Places, including previously unidentified properties. The statement must say which historic properties may be affected by the proposed work or include a vicinity map indicating the location of the historic properties or the potential for the presence of historic properties. Assistance regarding information on the location or potential for the presence of historic resources can be sought from the Virginia Department of Historic Resources and the National Register of Historic Places. Where an applicant has identified historic properties which the proposed activity may have the potential to affect, the applicant shall not begin the activity until notified by the Norfolk District that the activity has no potential to cause effects or that consultation under Section 106 of the NHPA has been completed. (d) Prospective permittees should be aware that Section 110(k) of the NHPA (16 U.S.C. § 470(h)-2(k)) prevents the Corps from granting a permit or other assistance to an applicant who, with intent to avoid the requirements of Section 106 of the NHPA, has intentionally significantly adversely affected a historic property to which the permit would relate, or having legal power to prevent it, allowed such significant adverse effect to occur, unless the Corps, after consultation with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP), determines that circumstances justify granting such assistance despite the adverse effects created or permitted by the applicant. If circumstances justify granting the assistance, the Norfolk District is required to notify the ACHP and provide documentation specifying the circumstances, explaining the degree of damage to the integrity of any historic properties affected, and proposed mitigation. This documentation must include any views obtained from the applicant, State Historic Preservation Officer, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, appropriate Indian tribes if the undertaking occurs on or affect historic properties on tribal lands or affects properties of interest to those tribes, and other parties known to have legitimate interest in the impacts to the permitted activity on historic properties. If the permittee, during construction or work authorized herein, encounters a previously unidentified archaeological or other cultural resource, he/she must immediately stop work and notify the Norfolk District of what has been found. Coordination with the Virginia Department of Historic Resources will commence and the permittee will subsequently be advised when he/she may recommence work.
10. **Tribal rights.** No activity authorized may impair reserved tribal rights, including, but not limited to, reserved water rights and treaty fishing and hunting rights.
11. **National lands.** Authorized activities shall not impinge upon the value of any National Wildlife Refuge, National Forest, National Park, or any other area administered by the FWS, U.S. Forest Service, or National Park Service.

**12. Endangered species.** No activity is authorized which:

- Is likely to jeopardize the continuing existence of a threatened or endangered species, or species proposed for such designation, as identified under the ESA, or which will destroy or adversely modify the critical habitat of such species
- Would result in a lethal or non-lethal “take” of any threatened or endangered species of fish or wildlife without an incidental take statement from the FWS

Applicants shall include, in their permit applications, information regarding the presence of any federally listed threatened or endangered species or designated critical habitat in the vicinity of the project site that might be affected by the proposed work. Information regarding threatened or endangered species may be obtained directly from the FWS’ Virginia Field Office at 6669 Short Lane, Gloucester, VA 23061 and/or the National Marine Fisheries Service Habitat Conservation Division at James J. Howard Marine Sciences Laboratory, 74 Magruder Road, Highlands, NJ 07732.

**13. Wild and Scenic Rivers.** Currently, there are no designated Wild and Scenic Rivers in the Commonwealth of Virginia; however, the portion of the Upper New River from Glen Lyn, Virginia to the West Virginia/Virginia state line was designated a “study river” by Congress on October 26, 1992. No activity may occur in a component of the National Wild and Scenic River System, or in a river officially designated by Congress as a “study river” for possible inclusion in the system, while the river is in an official study status, unless the appropriate Federal agency with direct management responsibility for such river has determined, in writing, that the proposed activity will not adversely affect the Wild and Scenic River designation or study status. Information on Wild and Scenic Rivers may be obtained from the appropriate Federal land management agency in the area (e.g., National Park Service, U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service). Impacts that occur in these resource areas will require coordination with the appropriate Federal agency.

**14. Federal navigation project.** Authorized activities may not interfere with any existing or proposed Federal navigation projects.

**15. Navigation.** (a) No authorized activity may cause more than a minimal adverse effect on navigation. (b) The permittee understands and agrees that if future operations by the United States require the removal, relocation, or other alteration of the structure or work herein authorized, or if, in the opinion of the Secretary of the Army or his/her authorized representative, said structure or work shall cause unreasonable obstruction to the free navigation of the navigable waters, the permittee will be required, upon due notice from the Norfolk District, to remove, relocate, or alter the structural work or obstructions caused thereby, without expense to the United States. No claim shall be made against the United States on account of any such removal or alteration.

**16. Floodplains.** All practicable efforts shall be made to conduct the work authorized by this RGP in a manner so as to avoid any adverse impact on the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) designated 100-year floodplain.

**17. Real estate.** Activities authorized under this RGP do not grant any Corps real estate rights. If real estate rights are needed from the Corps, you must contact the Corps Real Estate Office at (757) 201-7736 or at the address listed on the front page of this permit.

**18. Environmental Justice.** Activities authorized under this RGP must comply with Executive Order 12898, “Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations”.

**19. Federal liability.** In issuing this RGP, the Federal government does not assume any liability for the following: (a) damages to the permitted project or uses thereof as a result of other permitted or unpermitted activities or from natural causes; (b) damages to the permitted project or uses thereof as a result of current or future activities undertaken by or on behalf of the United States in the public interest; (c) damages to persons, property, or to other permitted or unpermitted activities or structures caused by the activity authorized by this RGP; (d) design or construction



deficiencies associated with the permitted work; (e) damage claims associated with any future modification, suspension, or revocation of this permit.

#### **General Conditions Related to Minimizing Environmental Impacts:**

20. **Avoidance and minimization.** Discharges of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States shall be avoided and impacts minimized to the maximum extent practicable.
21. **Heavy equipment in wetlands.** Heavy equipment working in wetlands must be placed on mats or other measures must be taken to minimize soil disturbance.
22. **Temporary fills.** All temporarily disturbed waters and wetlands must be restored to their pre-construction contours as soon as they are no longer needed. Once restored to their natural contours, their soil must be mechanically loosened to a depth of 12 inches and wetland areas must be seeded or sprigged with appropriate native vegetation.
23. **Sedimentation and erosion control.** Appropriate erosion and sediment controls must be employed and maintained in effective operating condition during construction, and all exposed soil and other fills, as well as any work below the ordinary high water mark, must be permanently stabilized at the earliest practicable date.
24. **Aquatic life movements.** No authorized activities may substantially disrupt the movement of aquatic life indigenous to the waterbody, including those species which normally migrate through the area, unless the activity's primary purpose is to impound water. The Norfolk District has determined that fish and wildlife are most often present in any stream being crossed, in the absence of evidence to the contrary.
25. **Discharge of pollutants.** All authorized activities involving any discharge of pollutants into waters of the United States shall be consistent with applicable water quality standards, effluent limitations, standards of performance, prohibitions, and pretreatment standards and management practices established pursuant to the CWA (33 U.S.C. § 1251 *et seq.*) and applicable state and local laws. No discharge of dredged or fill material in association with this authorization may consist of unsuitable material such as trash, debris, car bodies, asphalt, etc.
26. **Obstruction of high flows.** Discharges of dredged or fill material must not permanently restrict or impede the passage of normal or expected high flows.
27. **Waterbird breeding areas.** Discharges of dredged or fill material into breeding areas for migratory waterfowl must be avoided to the maximum extent practicable.
28. **Native trout and anadromous fishes.** Authorizations for discharges of dredged or fill material into native trout waters or anadromous fish spawning areas are conditioned to limit in-stream work within the timeframes recommended by the DGIF.
29. **Water supply intakes.** No discharge of dredged or fill material may occur in proximity of a public water supply intake.

#### **General Procedural Conditions:**

30. **Inspections.** A copy of this permit and any verification letter must be provided to the contractor and made available at the project site to any regulatory representative. The permittee shall allow the Norfolk District to make periodic inspections at any time deemed necessary in order to assure that the activities being performed under authority of this permit are in accordance with the terms and conditions prescribed herein. The Norfolk District reserves the right to require post-construction engineering drawings and/or surveys of any work authorized under this RGP, as deemed necessary on a case-by-case basis.
31. **Maintenance.** The permittee shall maintain the work authorized herein in good condition and in conformance with all terms and conditions of this permit. All fills shall be properly maintained to ensure public safety.

32. **Property rights.** This General Permit does not convey any property rights, either in real estate or material, or convey any exclusive privileges, nor does it authorize any injury to property or invasion of rights or any infringement of Federal, state, or local laws or regulations.
33. **Modification, suspension, and revocation.** This RGP may be either modified, suspended, or revoked in whole or in part pursuant to the policies and procedures of 33 C.F.R. § 325.7. Any such action shall not be the basis for any claim for damages against the United States.
34. **Restoration directive.** The permittee, upon receipt of a restoration directive, shall restore the waters of the United States to their former conditions without expense to the United States and as directed by the Secretary of the Army or his/her authorized representative. If the permittee fails to comply with such a directive, the Secretary or his/her designee, may restore the waters of the United States to their former conditions, by contract or otherwise, and recover the cost from the permittee.
34. **Special conditions.** The Norfolk District may impose other special conditions on a project authorized pursuant to this RGP that are determined necessary to minimize adverse navigational and/or environmental effects or based on any other factor of the public interest. Failure to comply with all general conditions of the authorization, including special conditions, constitutes a permit violation and may subject the permittee, or his/her contractor, to criminal, civil, or administrative penalties and/or restoration.
35. **False or incomplete information.** In granting authorization pursuant to this permit, the Norfolk District has relied upon information and data provided by the permittee. If, subsequent to notification by the Norfolk District that a project qualifies for this permit, such information and data prove to be materially false or materially incomplete, the authorization may be suspended or revoked, in whole or in part, and/or the United States may institute appropriate legal proceedings.
36. **Abandonment.** If the permittee decides to abandon the activity authorized under this general permit, unless such abandonment is merely the transfer of property to a third party, he/she may be required to restore the area to the satisfaction of the Norfolk District.
37. **Transfer of authorization.** In order to transfer authorization under this RGP, the transferee or permittee must supply the Norfolk District with a written request. Such transfer is effective upon written approval by the Norfolk District.
38. **Binding effect.** The provisions of the permit authorization shall be binding on any assignee or successor in interest of the original permittee.

**General Conditions Regarding Duration of Authorizations, Time Extensions for Authorizations, and Permit Expiration:**

39. **Time extensions.** If a permittee is unable to complete the work authorized under this general permit in the time limit provided in the initial authorization, he/she must submit a request for a time extension to the Norfolk District for consideration at least one month prior to the expiration of the permit authorization.
40. **Expiration of this Regional Permit.** Unless further modified, suspended, or revoked, this general permit will be in effect until August 14, 2013. Upon expiration, it may be considered for revalidation. Pursuant to 33 CFR 325.6(c), activities which have commenced (i.e., are under construction) or are under contract to commence in reliance upon a RGP will remain authorized provided the activity is completed within twelve months of the date of the RGP's expiration, modification, or revocation, unless discretionary authority has been exercised on a case-by-case basis to modify, suspend, or revoke the authorization in accordance with 33 CFR 325.7(a-e). Activities completed under the authorization of a RGP which was in effect at the time the activity was completed continue to be authorized by that RGP.



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Date

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Dionysios Anninos  
Colonel, Corps of Engineers  
Commanding